

*Southeastern Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends*

Post Office Box 1062, St. Petersburg FL 33731-1062  
[www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org) • [office@seym.org](mailto:office@seym.org) • (407)739-4150

Summer 2024 Executive Committee Meeting  
22 Sixth Month 2024  
9:00 am, Eastern Time

## Agenda and Documents In Advance

We will gather in person at  
Tampa Friends Meetinghouse  
1502 West Sligh Avenue  
Tampa, Florida

and via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87539616307?pwd=RjJoNUY4NlkvUmRkbUF5Mms2MURLQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 3961 6307

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# Schedule, Agenda, and Reports

Saturday, 22 Sixth Month 2024

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- 9:00 am Fellowship, coffee and snacks, all are welcome
- 9:30 am Opening Worship  
Announcements  
Introductions  
YM Secretary's Report  
Nominating Committee Report
- 10:00 am Monthly Meeting and Worship Group Open Forum - Where is Testimony leading us?
- 11:00 am Clerk's report – DeLand Worship Group request for recognition as a Monthly Meeting .....3
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 pm Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Pennington, 1667

- Traveling Minute Joel Cook to FWCC
- Treasurer's Report – closing of books expense
- CAPP Coordinator Report
- Peace & Social Concerns Committee
- Worship & Ministry Committee..... 10
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- Half Yearly Meeting Report
- Gathering Committee Report
- Field Secretary for Earthcare report ..... 13
- Earthcare Committee
- Publications Committee
- Ad-Hoc Quaker Call Committee
- Representatives to Friends Organizations
- Changes to nominating committee report (as needed)
- Ad hoc Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Search Committee Report ..... 19

Reading back the minutes

Closing Worship

## Clerk's Report

### SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

22 Sixth Month 2024

On June 9, 2024, the clerk received a Minute from the clerk of Orlando Monthly Meeting to indicate their approval of a request from DeLand Worship Group seeking recognition from SEYM as a Monthly Meeting. On June 11, 2024, the clerk received the request from DeLand Worship Group for recognition of DeLand Worship Group as a Monthly Meeting within SEYM (documents attached).

After review of this request and the relevant sections of SEYM Faith and Practice, the clerk responded to Orlando Monthly Meeting and DeLand Worship Group on June 13, 2024 (document attached).

DeLand Worship Group is an active Friends Community that has existed for many years and is attended by a number of seasoned Friends who have and continue to contribute substantially to the life of the SEYM community. They are carrying forward important witness to Friends Testimony in DeLand that involves collecting financial contributions as well as physical contributions of books to be distributed at events like Junteenth and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, as well as supporting other local witness to Friends values and testimonies.

As stated in their request and fairly easily understood, a corporate presence and independent financial presence consistent with Monthly Meeting status would help facilitate the continued growth and sustainability of their active witness. The text of the DeLand request calls for either the SEYM Executive Committee or Interim Business Meeting to take up and approve their request and create a Minute of recognition of the Worship Group as a Monthly Meeting.

Page 239 of the SEYM Faith and Practice specifically states that the formation and recognition of Worship Groups, Preparative Meetings, and Monthly Meetings, may be approved by Yearly Meeting. Faith and Practice does not delegate this authority to approve the formation of these meetings to Executive Committee (EC) or Interim Business Meetings (IBM), (SEYM Faith and Practice, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed., pp 239 to 244). Page 241 of SEYM Faith and Practice under the topic of Interim Business Meeting reads, "When need arises, interim business meeting may also ask the clerk of yearly meeting to call special sessions of yearly meeting." Page 244 of SEYM Faith and Practice under the topic of Executive Committee reads, "The committee acts for interim business meeting between sessions."

My reading of SEYM Faith and Practice indicates that neither EC nor IBM can approve the establishment of a Monthly Meeting, but that either meeting can request the YM clerk call a special session of Yearly Business Meeting that then could discern and potentially approve this request.

How I would proceed as YM clerk should EC or IBM approve a request that YM clerk call a special session YM Business Meeting:

- I would schedule an entirely virtual session of YM Business Meeting for the specific item(s) requested by minute of EC or IBM.
- This session would be scheduled for convenience of members to attend and announced no less

than 4 weeks in advance with documents in advance for the specific discernment requested by EC or IBM.

- The agenda would be limited to those items that EC or IBM has indicated warrant a special called YBM session.
- All other matters of business will remain in the normal process of seasoning through IBM in preparation for YBM sessions in 2025.
- Scheduling of a special called session would be publicized on the YM website and through SEYM e-news.

A proposed Minute:

SEYM Executive Committee requests the clerk of SEYM call a special session of Yearly Meeting for Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business to address the request of DeLand Worship Group in unity with Orlando Monthly Meeting that DeLand Worship Group be established and recognized as a Monthly Meeting affiliated SEYM in a manner consistent with the clerk's report received on June 22,2024.

Faithfully submitted  
Bill Carlie, EC/IBM clerk

## June 9, 2024, e-mail message to YM clerk from Orlando Monthly Meeting:

Dear Bill,

The Orlando Monthly Meeting approved the following minute at our Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business today:

DeLand Worship Group, now under the care of Orlando Monthly Meeting, wishes to apply to SEYM for a change in status from worship group to monthly meeting. More than thirty years ago, DeLand Worship Group formed under the care of Orlando Monthly Meeting. DeLand Worship Group then progressed from worship group to preparative meeting status, only to be laid down for a time. It resumed operation in 2019, soon again acting as a preparative meeting in all but name.

Deland Worship Group has thrived, with the attendance of many seasoned Friends, some new and some who attended the original group. It has attracted national attention among Friends, and the media, for its efforts to give books to children and students; books which affirm Friends' testimonies but offend those holding political power who mandate differing views about those testimonies.

Its attenders have taken an active role in both Orlando Monthly Meeting, and SEYM, lending their time, talents, and energy in support of the objectives of these organizations.

In accordance with the Special Circumstances outlined in SEYM's Faith & Practice (p. 223), and recognizing the number of seasoned Friends active in the DeLand Worship Group, Orlando Monthly Meeting approves, and recommends that SEYM also approve, the application of the DeLand Worship Group for a change of status from that of a worship group to that of a monthly meeting.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me in order to place this on the executive committee agenda for the June 22 meeting.

Warmly, Mira

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Mira Tanna  
Orlando Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends

## June 11, 2024, e-mail to YM clerk from DeLand Worship Group:

Dear Bill,

I believe you have already received the email and Minute I have attached from Mira Tanna regarding DeLand Worship Group's request to become a Monthly Meeting. We were delighted to receive Orlando Monthly Meeting's approval. There is great enthusiasm in our group for this development. Our proposed change of status will help us maintain that momentum.

For example:

1. We have a 900-book reading and give-away event planned for the Juneteenth Celebration in DeLand on June 15, 2024. We anticipate having related follow-up activities subsequent to that event. MM status would facilitate our responses to those potential activities and opportunities.
2. There are potential funders of projects presently under consideration by DWG. MM status would avoid the need to filter any grant applications through OMM's financial structure.
3. There are pending negotiations between Stetson University and the SEYM's Quaker Call Committee, that would be facilitated by DeLand's change in status;
4. There are several attenders at DWG who have patiently waited for its change of status, in order to request membership, or the transfer of membership, to DeLand Friends Meeting.

The normal path for a change of status from worship group to monthly meeting according to SEYM's Faith and Practice, is its existence for a period of time as a worship group under the care of an affiliated monthly meeting, followed by another period of time in existence as a preparative meeting, under the care of an affiliated monthly meeting, followed by another period of time, then followed by a request for a change of status made first to the monthly meeting's care committee, then, by them, to that monthly meeting. If approved by that monthly meeting, it then forwards the preparative meeting's request to SEYM. for its consideration at the following YBM. With the exception of the care committee, DeLand has moved through all of those steps over the last thirty plus years.

This quote from the Elders at Balby Meeting, written in 1656, seems particularly apropos:

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by; but that all, with a measure of the light, which is pure and holy, may be guided: and so in the light walking and abiding, these things may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not in the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life.

The issue DeLand Worship Group now wishes to present to E.C. is whether the "Special Circumstances" provision on page 223 of Faith and Practice, allowing worship groups to "request a different path to becoming a monthly meeting affiliated with SEYM," authorizes the SEYM Executive Committee, or, if not, then the SEYM Fall Interim Business Meeting, to adopt a minute FINALLY approving a change in status from DeLand Worship Group to

DeLand Friends Meeting, in order to allow DeLand Friends Meeting, once approved as such, to immediately incorporate, accept and manage its own funds, and receive applications and transfers of membership.

We are hoping that the SEYM Executive Committee will either itself, FINALLY approve DeLand Worship Group's request for a change of status to DeLand Friends Meeting at its June 22nd meeting, expressly authorizing DeLand Friends Meeting to immediately incorporate, open bank accounts, and accept new and transferred memberships, or, if not, that it will then recommend to SEYM's Fall Interim Business Meeting, that it FINALLY approve DeLand Worship Group's requested change of status to DeLand Friends Meeting, authorizing DeLand Friends Meeting to immediately incorporate, create and manage its own bank accounts, and accept applications and transfers of membership.

If you are able to add this item to the June 22, 2024, EC agenda, Dan Vaughen will present our request in person at the appropriate time.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Sincerely,  
Jim Cain, Clerk DeLand Worship Group

June 13, 2024, response e-mail from SEYM clerk to OMM and DeLand Worship Group:

Friends,

It is wonderful to read this news from DeLand Friends. I have also received the Minute from Orlando Monthly Meeting that confirms your request to move to Monthly Meeting status is consistent with the sense of OMM. DeLand Friends have long been under the care of OMM, long enough that I served as clerk of OMM years back and had the pleasure of visiting with DeLand Friends as a Worship Group and Preparative Meeting.

I have read the news of your testimony in DeLand with pleasure and believe it has had some role in re-awakening Friends to what is possible in this post pandemic world. I will be attending the St. Pete Pride festival next weekend to share our testimony and man our booth at the festival. There is great energy in our movement to get back out in the world and I am clear as the current clerk of SPMM that news of your work in DeLand played at least a small part in this inspiration. I personally feel that your request is timely and spiritually sound.

I have reviewed your thoughtful request and also the relevant sections of Faith and Practice. I do not want to sound like a compliance officer, even though that is how I made a living, but getting process correct is the job I am not getting paid for, so I will go there for a bit.

I generally concur with your reading of the 'special circumstances' section for recognition of Monthly Meetings. I think it is applicable here, and beyond that, DeLand Friends have been working toward Monthly Meeting status for a very long time. I think the writers of that section were expecting to encounter a very expedited process for seasoned Friends who might form a Meeting quite quickly and wanted to accommodate that should it happen. I do not think the authors expected a 30 year journey. So, it seems to me that this language is easily applicable to this request. We know DeLand Friends and have appreciated their contributions to the life of the SEYM Community.

Now that I have addressed the easy lift, there is a complication. Faith and Practice specifically reserves the authority to recognize Worship Groups, Preparative Meetings and Monthly Meetings to the YM Business Meeting. This authority has not been delegated to the SEYM Executive Committee (EC) or SEYM Interim Business Meetings (IBM). Consistent with Faith and Practice neither EC nor an IBM can adopt a Minute to recognize DeLand Friends as a Monthly Meeting as neither body has the authority to do so.

There is however a path forward. Faith and Practice provides that the EC/IBM clerk and YM clerk can call a special session of Yearly Business Meeting. Now I do not imagine that authors of Faith and Practice had this use in mind, given the logistics of

finding a place for an in-person gathering, the travel expense and such, this authority would have been very unlikely to ever be used short of a crisis. I know of no occasion where it has been used in our past. That said, the provision to allow for it exists. In these times where YM Business sessions can and have been conducted entirely on-line, I think the hurdle we need to clear is lower. While I think the business should be significant to the life of the Meeting and the use of the authority should be rare, I think the purposes proposed here are sufficient, given, that it is the sense of EC for the clerk to call a special YM Business Meeting. If it is the sense of the Meeting at EC I would be most happy to facilitate such a Special YM Meeting.

I will place that discernment of the agenda for EC.

In Peace,  
Bill Carlie, EC/IBM and YM clerk

# Worship and Ministry Committee Report

## SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

### 22 Sixth Month 2024

Dear Friends,

The Southeastern Yearly Meeting Worship and Ministry continues to be faithful in providing for SEYM Friends and others far and wide opportunities for deep spiritual nurture and community building. We meet as a committee monthly and more often when situations necessitate it. Our meetings are steeped in Spirit and Light with worship and worship sharing flowing throughout.

We have begun the discernment process for speakers for the Michener Lecture and a few names have arisen for seasoning. We are working with the Committee for Ministry on Racism to bring forward names of BIPOC individuals who can bring their unique perspective to our Yearly Meeting.

We continue to provide Extended Meeting for Worship quarterly. Our next scheduled one being 3 Eighth Month 2024 from 1-4 PM. Our weekly Queries for the Journey are ongoing, providing ways for Friends to reflect on their Quaker heart. The Queries for Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Month are being discerned by Lisa and Jan along with Anne Pomeroy and their elders to coincide with the Anne Pomeroy retreat sessions: *Wading in the Water*. Lastly, our Bi-weekly Seekers Book Club Continues. The next selection is *Abuelita Faith*, by Kat Armas. The first meeting for this book is 6 Sixth Month.

We just recently had an online workshop by Tim Gee (FWCC) on 4 Fifth Month – *Growing Faith in Spirit-Led Action*. It was well-attended and Friends were inspired by Tim’s message from across the pond.

We had the first of our three Anne Pomeroy retreat sessions: *Listening Deeply to Spirit, to Each Other, and to Our Souls* on 11 Fifth Month. The online session unfortunately coincided with tornadoes in Tallahassee, a widespread internet outage in the state, and possible interference from the solar flares, which made the session only accessible to eight attendees other than the presenter and their elders. We pray that the remaining sessions will not be similarly inundated with challenges and Friends can experience the true gift of Anne Pomeroy and their message. We encourage Friends to attend the other two sessions: *Opening Our Hearts to Continuing Revelation* (15 Sixth Month 1-3 PM) and *Walking Forward in Faith* (20 Seventh Month 1-3 PM).

Plans are being made to have a second presentation of Joel Cook’s Yearly Meeting workshop: *The Friends We Are Becoming: Stories of Transformation*. It was recognized that the time given for this workshop during Yearly Meeting was not sufficient and so this online version of the workshop will take place sometime in Ninth Month.

The Worship and Ministry Committee welcomes Friends to visit the SEYM website for information on all spiritual programs and opportunities and to encourage Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to sign up and participate in any and all online programs that are available.

In faithful service,

*Jan Dahm, Lisa Erazmus, and Richelle Ogle, co-clerks of the SEYM Worship & Ministry Committee*

## Committee for Ministry on Racism

### SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

#### 22 Sixth Month 2024

The SEYM Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) is following closely the status of **HR 7227/S.1723, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act of 2024**. FCNL's Spring Lobby Weekend made these bills one of their legislative priorities and their Congressional visits resulted in more co-sponsors for a total of 32 co-sponsors in the Senate and 52 co-sponsors in the House, including Rep. Maxwell Frost, D, Orlando, and Rep. Darren Soto, south of Orlando. The bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health on 02/09/24. There has been no further action.

Please let your Congressional reps know that we consider this bill long overdue, and would they please make it a priority to see that it gets to the floor this session.

Please note that neither Florida Senators Scott nor Rubio are co-sponsors. In an email response to CMOR member Kathy Hersh dated 05-30-24, Senator Rubio stated that he has developed over the years a meaningful relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida regarding the sale of their real estate to create generational wealth. He also stated that he has advocated for a bill which would increase benefits for Native American veterans, still pending in committee. **A good question to pose to Sen. Rubio would be why he is not a co-sponsor of S.1723, given his past advocacy for Native American issues.**

An article in the **May 6, 2024, issue of The New Yorker magazine featured Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American cabinet secretary.** If this link doesn't work, Friends who have subscriptions to The New Yorker, might consider sharing this issue with others in your monthly meetings who may not have read this fascinating profile of this remarkable woman who is leading the effort to create the Truth and Healing Commission. She is also calling for a national investigation of the unsolved numerous disappearances of Native American women.

CMOR also recommends reading Ta-Nehisi Coates' article, **A Case for Reparations** which originally appeared in the June 15, 2014, issue of The Atlantic magazine. [This article, as well as a series he did for The Atlantic, are reprinted in his book WE WERE EIGHT YEARS IN POWER: An American Tragedy. There are numerous YouTube videos of him discussing the topic.](#) This is a subject which CMOR suggests that Quakers raise up in their monthly meetings, listening to reasoned arguments rather than hear-say on this controversial but essential topic.

CMOR welcomes ideas from Friends regarding future workshop topics on overcoming racism and recommendations of books and articles which are enlightening on the issue of white supremacy and racial reconciliation.

# Field Secretary for Earthcare (FSE) Report

## SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

### 22 Sixth Month 2024

#### Overview

*Provide focus and coordinate efforts on environmental work in the Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) region.*

This report provides information on activities since the 2024 Southeastern Yearly Meeting Gathering. Also included are plans for the upcoming year. As mentioned in the FSE report submitted for the annual gathering, work has begun on succession planning as I am considering retiring as the Yearly Meeting's field secretary for Earthcare at the rise of the 2025 Fall Interim Business Meeting with a Concern for Business. Thank you, Friends, for your accompaniment on this journey!

#### Communication with the Anchoring Committee

Communications with the FSE Anchoring Committee members through email, telephone, or other remote means, and, at times, in person as opportunities and needs arise.

#### Meeting with Monthly Meetings (MMs), Worship Groups (WGs), and Others

*Perform visits to Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups within SEYM to help them discern their leadings in care of the Earth, and to provide information and coordination among Meetings.*

As a reminder, "Meetings can issue invitations to the [SEYM] administrative secretary, FSE, or the Anchor Committee [for FSE visits]. We will all conference over the invitation and subsequent planning" (Phoebe Andersen, 3 Tenth Month 2016). I continue to create opportunities to work with monthly meetings and others through online and in-person visits.

#### **Contact Information**

- Email: [fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org](mailto:fsEarthcare@seymquakers.org).
- Facebook: @fsearthcare
- Instagram: @fsearthcare
- Snailmail: P.O. Box 1614, Umatilla, FL 32784
- TikTok: fsearthcare
- Twitter: @fsearthcare
- Telephone number: 813.928.8823.
- WhatsApp

A Google calendar showing requests for visitation and FSE has been created and shared with the Anchoring Committee.

## SEYM Community Preparedness Discussion Continues!

**Purpose:** To develop suggestions for Meetings, Worship Groups, and other communities on responding to various needs that may come about to due extreme events, economic hardships, etc.

**Date:** 27 Sixth Month (June) 2024 **Time:** 7:00 P.M. (EDT)

**Zoom:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9830112433?pwd=NCtrenlZMVQwWlpwbzNjbXBt-NU8oUT09&omn=83960944029>

Meeting ID: 983 011 2433

Passcode: 706983 One tap mobile

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+16469313860,,83059327001#,,,,\*503729# US

### **Suggested Workshop/Event Topics**

- **Angelic Troublemaking: Beyond Bystander Training** - explores anti-racism/decolonization work with emphasis on local concerns and means of accompaniment.
- **Climate Equity/Climate Justice in Our Community:** identifies specific local social justice and equity concerns. Participants identify actions to address concerns.
- **Decolonizing Earthcare:** explores the intersectionality of gender, race, extraction, and harmful economic systems and the adverse impacts to the Earth.
- **Discerning Earthcare Leadings:** listening and sharing experiences to reach individual and group decisions on Earthcare actions.
- **Earthcare audits:** baseline assessment of individual or community activities and discernment.
- **Equality or Equity? What is Our Testimony?:** examines Friends' equality testimony, the concepts of equity and justice, and the relationship of these to Earthcare.
- **Permaculture is Not Just Agriculture:** introduces permaculture design and domains and ways to bring these practices into Earthcare.
- **Project Drawdown, Introduction and more:** presents information on actions that “drawdown” carbon emissions and ways to promote drawdown choices as individuals and communities.
- **Quakers and Climate Collapse:** shares and builds on a Woodbrooke course led by Jackie Carpenter from 2021 Fifth Month (May), including review of the latest science, worship sharing, and discernment.
- **Racial Wealth Gap Simulation:** an exercise that helps “. . . people understand the connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth”.

- Transportation, migration, and climate: explores access and mobility issues from the local to global perspective and the impacts of climate change.
- Water: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, and Water Quality explores local, national, and global water issues.
- Waterline Communities: Displacement and Gentrification and Why Quakers Should Care drills down to the county or community level on the impacts of displacement.
- **What the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs AND Inflation Reduction Acts Mean to Me and My Community?** This workshop looks at how funds from the two acts are being dispersed at the local level and provides suggestions on how to get involved in the decision-making process. Special emphasis is given to working with local implementing agencies and collaborating with advocacy groups to address adverse climate and environmental impacts.

### ***Workshops or other Activities since 2024 Yearly Meeting with a Concern for Business***

The majority of efforts during this period have centered on the community planning discussions as mentioned above. The notes and slide decks from these discussions are made available on the SEYM website, <https://seymquakers.org/faith-in-action/earthcare/>, along with a YouTube narrated video.

I also am making available more video content on the SEYM website.

### ***Interactions or Collaborations between and among other SEYM committees***

*These interactions between and among SEYM committees help to facilitate communication and collaboration of our regional concerns with national organizations and to be a Quaker Presence at specific events.*

- The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR): I am working with Toward Right Relations with Native Peoples and CMOR to bring offerings to SEYM. Many Friends may not have seen or participated in the Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples or “the blanket exercise.” Other presentations are available.
- Earthcare Committee: members of the SEYM Earthcare Committee and others are help with the SEYM Community Preparedness planning.
- Florida Council of Churches (FCC): the FCC is in the process of electing new officers. I will be working with the executive director, Russell Meyer, to reconvene the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN).
- Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) Committee: As an ex-officio member of the HYM committee, I continue to participate in planning activities.

- Peace and Social Concerns (P&SC) Committees: I continue to meet with or otherwise support the Yearly and Monthly Meeting P&SC committees. Several Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meeting P&SC members have been participating in the community preparedness discussions.
- Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), AFSC: I continue to serve as an AFSC representative on the Quaker United Nations Committee (QUNC) and participated virtually in the Fourth Month meeting of QUNC. I will provide a separate report of this meeting. Of note, the QUNO New York office has an opening for an UN representative, [QUNO UN representative](#).
- Right Sharing of World Resources: I continue to share information through the- QEW United Nations Working Group, AFSC, and Quaker United Nations Committee.
- Youth Committee: The community preparedness discussion group encourages youth participation in our discussions!

### ***The Wider Quaker World, Interfaith Groups, Other Environmental Organizations***

*To communicate and collaborate our regional concerns with national organizations including Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends General Conference (FGC). To be a Quaker Presence at specific events, including those arranged by others.*

I continue to work with the wider Quaker World, interfaith groups, and environmental organizations. These interactions have been virtual and in person during this period.

- Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP): I am working with Kathy Hersh to plan AVP workshops with Volusia County youths. Kathy Hersh has submitted a proposal to for approval.
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): I continue to serve as a corporate member of AFSC, QUNC and AFSC's Third World Coalition.
- Decolonizing Quakers, <https://www.decolonizingquakers.org/>: The working group continues to meet monthly. tom kunesh, a member of the working group, will be a plenary speaker during the 2024 Friends General Conference, [sounds of \(friends\) silence: quaker tales of the dakota intifada of 1862](#).
- Earth Ethics Institute (EEI), <http://earthethicsinstitute.org/>, Miami Dade College: The advisory group will meet in Miami mid-summer.
- Fellowship of Friends of African Descent (FOFAD): the work of Decolonizing Quakers overlaps with the FOFAD activities, the Black Quaker Project, <https://www.theblackquakerproject.org/>, and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).
- Florida Interfaith Climate Actions Network (FL-iCAN): As mentioned above the Florida Council of Churches is planning to resume convening FL-iCAN assemblies.

- Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Brad Stocker and I continue to share a slot as representatives to FCNL for QEW. Through the QEW, I have participated in discernment of a number of legislative issues, e.g., reproductive rights, armed conflict, etc.
- Friends General Conference (FGC): I continue to work with FGC, particularly with the Fellowship of Friends of Color, FOFAD, and Quakers Uprooting Racism. The proposal that John Heimborg and I submitted for the 2024 Gathering workshop, “Bring Your Whole Self” has been accepted. We are busy developing course material, promoting, and otherwise preparing for the workshop. Hold us in your hearts!
- Friends Peace Teams (FPT): I continue to work with members of FPT and link FPT to QEW UN Working Group and Towards Right Relationship/Decolonizing Quakers.
- Friends United Meeting (FUM): I continue to work with Jim Kessler, Grinnell Friends Church, through Quaker Earthcare Witness.
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): I continue to work to strengthen links to FWCC through QEW, FGC, and AFSC.
- National Academies of Sciences, Transportation Research Board (TRB), Equity in Transportation and the Women’s Issues in Transportation Committees. This effort is focused on the 2024 Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity which will be convened 15-18 Seventh Month (July) 2024 in Baltimore, MD.
- Nurturing Faithfulness (NF) program: , I was invited by Marcelle Martin and Jennifer Hogue to be interviewed about Earthcare work, climate justice, environmental witness, and other ways of helping communities to prepare for the changing times to come. (NF is a collaboration between New England Yearly Meeting, Woolman Hill, Hilary Burgin and Marcelle Martin.) The recording is being prepared for distribution and will be shared with SEYM. Continue to stay tuned!
- QEW: If you’re not familiar with the offerings of Quaker Earthcare Witness, here you go!
  - Sign up for an online event at <https://quakerearthcare.org/events/>.
  - Invite QEW to offer a workshop for your community. <https://quakerearthcare.org/workshops/>.
  - Share BeFriending Creation, <https://quakerearthcare.org/befriending-creation/>.
  - Apply for a Mini-Grant for an Earthcare project, <https://quakerearthcare.org/mini-grants/>.
  - Volunteer as a contact for your monthly meeting or church, <https://quakerearthcare.org/get-involved/>.
  - Talk with SEYM representatives to QEW, Brian Olson, Brad Stocker, or Beverly G Ward.

- Start an Earthcare group, <https://quakerearthcare.org/for-environmental-concerns-committees/>.
- Use Quaker Earthcare Witness materials in your First Day school, <https://quakerearthcare.org/resources/earthcare-for-children/>.
- Support QEW by making a tax-deductible contribution.
- Quaker House at Chautauqua (NY), Friend of the Week (Chaplain): I continue to prepare for the chaplain week, 10 through 17 Eighth Month. Please feel free to share thoughts, information, etc., related to the themes, “Water: Crisis, Beauty and Necessity – A Week in Partnership with National Geographic” and Interfaith Lecture Theme – A Metaphor for Life. Thank you for your accompaniment!
- Tri-City NAACP Branch: I continue with the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee.
- University of South Florida: I continue to work with various colleagues at the University and will provide lectures this summer in the National Science Foundation Weather, Climate, and Society program.

### ***Social Media***

I welcome suggestions for short pieces on activities, topics, research, etc., to share.

Love and Peace,

Beverly G Ward  
SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare

## Ad hoc Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Search Committee Report

### SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting

22 Sixth Month 2024

The SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Search Committee has concluded its search and has united in selecting Rachel Dellinger, an active attender of Orlando Monthly Meeting, for the position.

After an extensive interview with Rachel, we are convinced that she has the desire to serve the Yearly Meeting, will be a positive role model, has a range of experience teaching and organizing youth and adult volunteers, and has a deep commitment to the values that Quakers hold dear.

Rachel has been a high school science teacher for the past eight years. She brings a strong sense of earth stewardship to her work with young people. She has been a Girl Scout leader and has extensive experience supervising literacy programs for a library system. Her philosophy of teaching is to be a “guide on the side” rather than “a sage on the stage,” as she put it.

She has been an attender of Orlando Monthly Meeting since 2018 and has participated actively in First Day School activities and projects. She is the mother of three, a daughter Esme, now in high school; a son, James, now 18; and a son, Will, now 20. She says she often relies on them to help her better understand their peers.

Her humility and willingness to work with the SEYM Youth Committee and confer with monthly meetings within SEYM convinced us that she is well-suited for the job.

Mira Tanna  
Susan Vaughen  
Kathy Hersh